

SENATOR REMMERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I rise to oppose the amendment and I also want to make a few comments in favor of the bill and then I don't intend to speak again. I oppose the amendment. I want to remind all of us that we have a representative form of government in this country. We can't run to the general public every time we have an issue that we don't want to face ourselves. It is not that I don't have confidence in the intelligence of the...wisdom of the constituents, but they are not, generally not well informed in on the details of the issue. They are not on the front line and I don't think we should refer issues back to them. I think that is what we are elected for to do. The local boards of the tech colleges were elected for that. Whether it is the county officials, the county commissioners are elected to make the decisions and if we are going to run to the constituents every time we have a difficult question, we just as well forget about representative government. So I oppose the amendment to put it back to the people. I have no doubt in my mind that probably in most cases the people would vote to probably restrict the expenditure. I think if they could weigh all the issues, could be where we are, we can look at them from every angle, I think they would support the increase. We find that we do have bond levies and other things that are approved by the people. They don't always necessarily turn them down but I think that we should leave the decision with the elected boards. If they don't like the elected boards, don't like what is going on, they can elect different people. In regard to the system itself, we talk about maybe being more efficient if we close some of those smaller institutions outstate and, yes, the state might save some money, but I think we forget that the cost will be made up by those people that we serve, now especially those people that take the benefits of the tech colleges. Many of those, it would be unable for them to go to a centralized college or university. Since they are not too far from these tech colleges, they can hold a job. They can go maybe a few hours during the day or for night classes and we need to retrain those people for jobs that they can no longer find. The farm population, the farm situation is tough right now and there is going to be a lot of farmers quit the farm, and they are going to have to find new jobs, and the tech colleges can address those better than anybody else. So even though in some of these cases by consolidating these institutions, the state might save some money, but it will be at the expense of those people out there who really need